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Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4165
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, FR
SUBJECT: ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN FRANCE

REF: STATE 153615

SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR CONTACTS, ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS ARE NOT ON THE INCREASE. INCIDENTS, ALLEGEDLY ANTI-SEMITIC, ARE OFTEN A CAMOUFLAGE FOR POLITICAL OR COMMERCIAL CONFLICTS. THESE INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN THE PRESS (PARTICULARLY LEFT PRESS), EVER VIGILANT TO A RECURRENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE RACISM (ANTI-SEMITIC), ANTI-ARAB, ANTI-BLACK) PROVIDES A "RAISON D'ETRE" FOR VARIOUS SMALL FRINGE GROUPS, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE AT THIS TIME TO INDICATE A RISE IN ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITIES. GRAFITTI AND FREQUENT BOMBINGS ARE USED BY THESE MINI-GROUPS FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF PURPOSES. NO LEGITIMATE POLITICAL PARTY
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IN FRANCE, INCLUDING THE EXTREME RIGHT, ESPOUSES ANTI-SEMITISM, AND IN FACT THE RIGHT PARTICULARLY TAKES PAINS TO AVOID ANY GROUNDS FOR A POSSIBLE LINKAGE TO NAZISM.

2. THE RECENT HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED TRIPLE BOMBINGS OF THE PARIS "CLUB MEDITERRANEE" HEADQUARTERS (JUNE 4) WAS

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CLAIMED BY THE FRENCH NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FLNF) AND CALLED AN ACT OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE "JEWISH OCCUPATION" AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE CLUB'S GENERAL MANAGER, GILBERT TRIGANO,AND THE CLUB'S BACKING BY THE ROTHSCHILD BANK. IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, TRIGANO SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE REASON FOR THE INCIDENT WAS COMMERCIAL, NOT POLITICAL. THIS LATEST INCIDENT WAS JUST ONE OF MANY EXPERIENCED BY "CLUB MED" OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE FLNC (FRONT DE LIBERATION NATIONAL CORSE), FOR EXAMPLE, EXPLODED TWO BOMBS (APRIL 21-22, 1977 WHICH RESULTED IN THE CLOSING OF ONE OF THREE "CLUB MED" OPERATIONS ON THE ISLAND.

3. A SECOND EQUALLY PUBLICIZED INCIDENT OCCURRED JUNE 17-18, WHEN 15 YOUNG NEO-NAZIS, ACCOMPANIED BY A FEW OTHER PEOPLE, HELD A CLOSED MEETING IN A CHATEAU NEAR PARIS. THE GROUP HAD RENTED THE CHATEAU FOR THE WEEKEND UNDER FALSE PRETENSES. LOCAL CITIZENS, HOWEVER, NOTING NAZI PARAPHERNALIA OF THE GROUP, CALLED THE POLICE WHO CAME AND TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS TO DISPERSE. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS AND NO ARRESTS.

4. THE LEFT PRESS HAS USED THE ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS (REAL AND ALLEGED) AS A MEANS OF LABELLING POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE EXTREME RIGHT AS NEO-NAZI, NEO- FASCIST, ANTI-SEMITIC, ETC. THIS TACTIC HAS ALSO BEEN USED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LEFT PRESS TO OPPOSE THE MEETING OF THE "EURODROITE" (PARIS 20687) IN PARIS ON JUNE 27. THUS "ANTI-SEMITICISM" AS A THEME HAS BEEN RECEIVING GREATER PRESS COVERAGE THAN NORMAL, BUT APPARENTLY DOES NOT REFLECT AN INCREASE IN GENUINE ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS.
HARTMAN

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